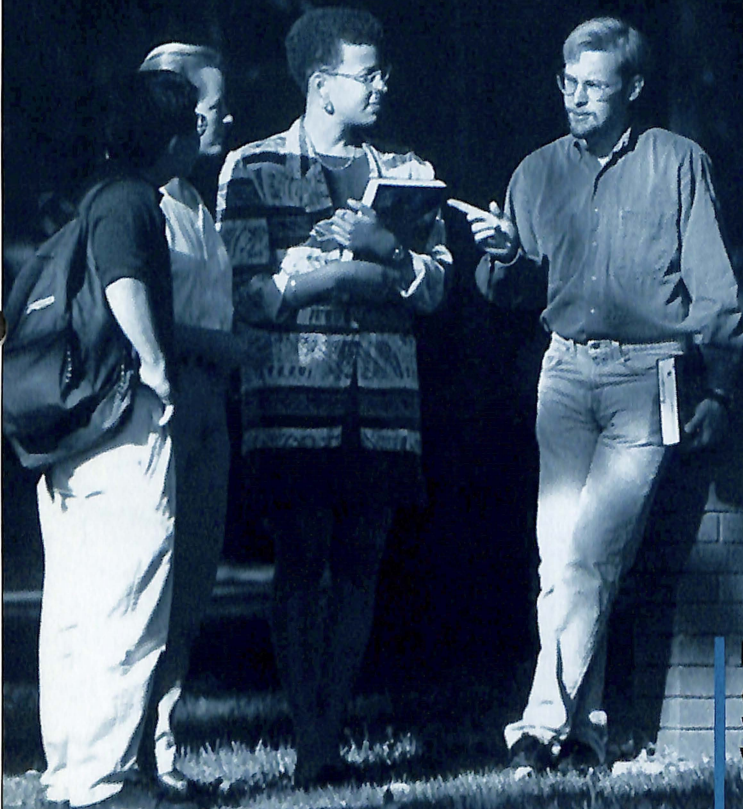


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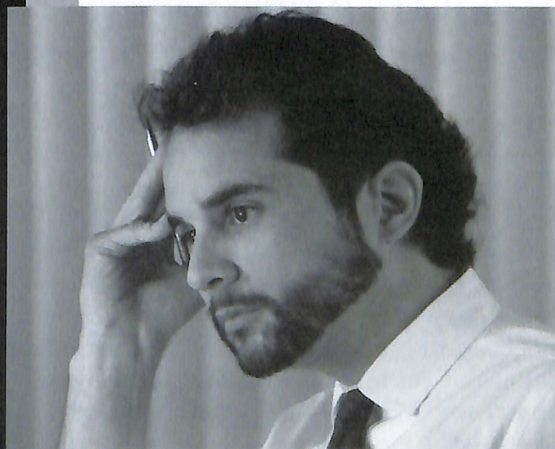


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UC Davis

The Davis campus of the University of California is a major economic development asset in the Solano region. Cutting-edge research in the fields of agriculture, biotechnology, medicine and engineering have resulted in significant corporate interest in locating near the University. An example is Solano's growing biotechnology cluster, due in some measure to UC Davis activities.

The campus also adds to the Quality of Life in this region. The UC Davis Presents Programs bring national and international figures in the performing arts, entertainment, literature and public policy to northern California, providing unique experiences for adults and students.



UC DAVIS - PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY

By Kathleen Holder

When Robert Moore worked as a research manager for Chevron Corp., he looked to UC Davis for an objective voice on clean-air regulations and alternative fuels. In turn, Chevron became the first of several "corporate affiliates" to invest in the university's Institute for Transportation Studies with yearly monetary gifts with no strings attached. Meanwhile, close to 85 "business partners" who give annual gifts to the Graduate School of Management send their top managers to a series of lectures offered by the school and can request free consulting by its business-administration students. Similarly, industrial affiliates that donate cash or equipment to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering attend a yearly conference where they can learn about faculty and student research and recruit graduating seniors. Top donors are also invited to serve on a department board of advisers.

Those are just a few examples of UC Davis' growing ties with business and industry. According to university and corporate officials, these ties create job opportunities for students when they graduate, build the university's academic programs, foster research collaborations and speed sharing of the benefits of scholarly research with society. Such partnerships may be the wave of the future. Government still funds the lions share of UC Davis research. Close to 70 percent of the campus' more than \$183 million in research grants and contracts in 1996-97 came from federal agencies. However, with competition increasing for limited government funding, the university has been looking to build more partnerships with private industry.

Moore, an electrical engineer who worked for Chevron for 16 years, said he looked to the UC Davis Institute for Transportation Studies for "contrary views" on the future of gasoline and the internal-combustion engine. The workshops sponsored by the institute brought together business, government and environmental representatives in a neutral venue. "You could have a discussion that was relatively free of politics and relatively free of advocacy." He also noted that the well-placed institute provided insight into the thinking of the California Air Resources Board in Sacramento, which has set national trends for low-emission vehicle and clean-air regulations.

While corporations benefit from university expertise, in Moore's case the exchange also went the other way. A solar-cell expert who has an engineering doctorate degree and holds shares on seven patents, Moore took early retirement from Chevron in 1997 to join the UC Davis Transportation Studies Institute to oversee research on fuel cells. His four year study, "The Advanced Vehicle Modeling Program" is being funded by state and federal agencies and an international coalition of private

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UC DAVIS—Facts & Figures

* Founded as the "University Farm" in the early 1900s, UC Davis has emerged an acknowledged international leader in agricultural, biological, biotechnological and environmental sciences and is gaining similar recognition for excellence in the arts, humanities, social sciences, engineering, health sciences, law and management.

* **UC Davis is the northernmost and, physically the largest of the nine UC campuses,** stretching across 5,200 acres along the Yolo-Solano county border. The campus is third in enrollment with more than 24,000 students—including more than 19,000 undergraduates and 2,900 graduate students. Nearly 2,300 students study law, management, medicine or veterinary medicine at the campus' four professional schools.

* UC Davis students graduate at one of the highest rates among UC students. Among freshmen entering from 1983 to 1987, 77 percent completed a degree at UC Davis.



* Fifty years ago the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine opened its doors as the only such school in California. It recently ranked first in the nation for its teaching and animal care, according to U.S. News & World Report.

* U.S. News & World Report, ranked UC Davis among the top 10 public universities nationally for the third consecutive year. UC Davis was admitted recently into the prestigious Association of American Universities. Membership in this group of 62 institutions of higher learning is by invitation only. Money recently rated UC Davis as one of the West's top 10 "best buys" in public colleges and universities.

* A study reported in 1995 by the National Research Council placed four of UC Davis' graduate programs in the top 20 nationwide in terms of faculty quality. Graduate programs in ecology, evolution and behavior ranked fifth in the nation. The same study ranked UC Davis faculty 16th in quality among the top 20 comprehensive public universities nationwide. UC Davis stands 22nd in research funding among universities in the United States, according to the most recent statistics from the National Science Foundation.

* **In other U.S. News & World Report assessments, the College of Engineering ranked 25th among public graduate school programs and its undergraduate engineering program ranked among the top 20 in public university programs. The Graduate School of Management ranked 13th among public business schools. The law school ranked 10th among public schools. The medical school placed 11th among U.S. comprehensive public medical schools in primary-**

care training. The magazine's rankings also place the UC Davis fine arts graduate program 10th, among public and private universities in the country.

Doctoral programs in biological sciences and geology were rated as being in the top 10 at public universities in the nation. UC Davis' graduate programs in economics, English and history ranked 12th, 14th and 13th, respectively, among public universities.

Other graduate programs ranking in the U.S. News & World Report assessments included international economics, ranked 5th; political science, ranked 23rd; psychology, ranked 19th; and sociology, ranked 17th, among public institutions.

* The General Library, ranked among the top research libraries in North America, contains more than 2.5 million volumes, and comprises five units, including the Peter J. Shields Library. In addition, the Law Library contains more than 255,000 volumes. Shields Library also houses the Center for Advanced Information Technology, providing the latest electronic technology for demonstration and instructional use.

* The University Arboretum, located on 125 acres along the old north fork of Putah Creek, provides an outdoor classroom and laboratory for teaching and research.

* California's famed wine industry owes much of its success to UC Davis, where scientists have tackled problems that range from developing new grape varieties to understanding growing climates.

* More than 155 new varieties of fruits, grains and vegetables have sprung from agricultural research at UC Davis. The strawberry varieties alone represent the majority of strawberries grown commercially around the world.

* Researchers with the UC Davis Center for AIDS Research have made several significant contributions to understanding the disease and developing animal models for investigating potential vaccines and therapies. These researchers have played an important role in characterizing two important monkey versions of AIDS. In addition, they discovered a form of AIDS in domestic cats and were the first to isolate the feline immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS in cats.

* Extensive research by UC Davis nutritionists uncovered the vital role played by trace metals such as zinc and manganese in the development of mammalian fetuses. Their experiments identified congenital defects linked to deficiencies of these metals in a mother's diet.

* UC Davis scientists and engineers helped revolutionize the agricultural industry in the state through the development of new farm machinery and crops adapted to their use. Inventions include tree-shaking devices for harvesting fruit, the mechanical tomato harvester and a special variety of tomato for machine harvesting. The tomato harvester has been credited with saving California's tomato processing industry at a time when it appeared to be threatened by changes in the labor force.



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UC Davis - Partnerships...

continued from page 2

industry. It was Chevron executives who first suggested to Dan Sperling, the Institute for Transportation Studies Director in 1990, that he start a corporate affiliate program. "They said, 'If you create it, we'll join,'" Sperling recalled. "I said, 'Done.'"

Under the program, companies give \$5,000 to \$15,000 a year for basic membership. Among the companies are electric utilities, auto manufacturers and 13 oil companies. Toyota recently became the first company to join at the \$40,000 Patron level. At this level, the company establishes a graduate student fellowship. In exchange, the companies can send staff members to institute workshops and briefings and receive advance notice of publications

about such topics as alternative-fuel technology and state regulations. "Some joined in the beginning because they felt we had a different view of the future than they would get from their consultants or in-house people," Sperling said. "For a lot of these companies, what we represent to them is an independent voice on some of these issues."

Besides providing unrestricted funds that the institute can use to build its program, the collaboration sometimes leads to private research grants as firms become familiar with faculty members and their areas of expertise. "We build up a relationship with them," Sperling said. "They get familiar with what we're doing and the people here. As you build up that trust and respect, they're more interested in working with you." The Electrical and Computer Engineering Department's Industrial Affiliate Program was started in 1989, but suffered during the economic recession of the early 1990s, when many companies tried to cut costs. However, according to Bernard Levy, department chair, the gift program has been growing again as the economy rebounds. Companies can join at one of two levels, Associate or Affiliate. "Industrial Associates" give either \$2,000 cash, \$20,000 in research grants and contracts, or \$20,000 in new equipment. The contribution levels for "Industrial Affiliates" are \$5,000 cash, \$50,000 in research grants or \$50,000 in equipment. Levy said his department hopes to use the contributions to eventually establish a graduate fellowship.

Robert Smiley, Dean of the Graduate School of Management, said he started the Business Partners program six years ago for a number of reasons. Among them were fostering closer ties with the business community, providing job contacts for students and raising money for the school. In a structure similar to the Transportation Institute's Corporate Affiliate Program, companies are asked to give yearly gifts of \$2,500 and up. The gifts now provide the school with more than \$200,000 yearly in unrestricted funding to build its program. The companies, in return, are invited to send their senior managers to breakfast and dinner speeches and to a lecture series featuring top business and industry leaders. One breakfast featuring Jerry Porras, a Stanford professor and co-author of the best-seller *Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies*, drew more than 100 people. The gift program also offers companies greater access to students. Firms can have students conduct research or analyze their business strategies while in school, or they can hire the new M.B.A. recipients after they graduate.

Smiley said business executives come as much to meet each other as they do to hear the speakers. "They like the networking. They tend to be the CEOs of local firms or managers of firms headquartered elsewhere so they want to get to know each other."

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Roger Valine, head of the Sacramento based Vision Services Plan, the nation's largest vision care insurance provider, said he likes attending the lectures because they "get me outside my box" and expand his way of thinking. Valine said he likes using students as consultants because they frequently ask different questions than his employees or professional consultants might. "It helps you think in broader terms," Valine said. Several years ago, he put UC Davis management students on a team that created a subsidiary to manufacture eyeglass frames. The subsidiary now earns \$10 million a year. But Valine said the biggest reason he participates in the gift program is simply to invest in a school he considers topnotch. "I choose to affiliate with people who really make a difference," he said. "To me, you do things for the right reason. The right reason is you want to help the school. Like many other things in life, when you do a good thing, good things come back to you."



UC DAVIS PRESENTS - Community Outreach

By Kathleen Holder

Exciting things can happen when you bring youngsters face to face with high-caliber performing artists.

Nine year old Henry Greene had never seen a professional dance performance before he came to a UC Davis Presents

matinee last winter. Neither had 10 year old Selvi Rajagopal or 11 year old Amutha Greene. The show by the daredevil Streb/Ringside Dance Troupe was hardly what the Sacramento grade school students had been expecting. "I thought it was going to be, like, boring," Henry said. "I was surprised. It was really good," Selvi said. "I thought it was awesome," Amutha agreed.

The young spectators oohed and aahed as the dancers literally climbed the walls, flew off a trampoline and slammed their bodies against mats on the floor. Scores of new fans swarmed the stage after the show, seeking the dancers' autographs. Such awe-struck reactions are common at the special performances, which brings many youngsters to the live theater for the first time in their lives, said Joyce Donaldson, outreach coordinator for UC Davis Presents. "Really, that happens at most of the matinees," Donaldson said. "The kids are just speechless because of the quality of what they're seeing. It's the best in the world." The outreach program brings tens of thousands of school kids into the theaters to watch shows at discount rates by the likes of

Streb/Ringside, the Boys Choir of Harlem and Brazil's Bale Folclorico da Bahia.

The UC Davis Presents Community Outreach Program also brings world-class performers into classrooms, student residence halls, libraries and community centers to work side by side with students of all ages. Master classes this past academic year included trumpet virtuoso, Arturo Sandoval, playing with the Woodland High School jazz band, violinist, Stefan Milenkovich, playing with the Davis All-City Orchestra and jazz pianist, Marcus Roberts, performing at a Sacramento record store. "Because support for the arts in public education has been in decline, the arts community has felt the need to provide more, beyond just performing on stage, in an educational forum," said Dave Webb, marketing director for UC Davis Presents. "To this end, our program is bringing these talented people here and sharing them with school children," Webb said. The outreach program has grown dramatically in recent years. In 1997-98, outreach events drew more than 18,000 people, an increase of about 6,000 over the previous year.

Outreach in the schools also is up.



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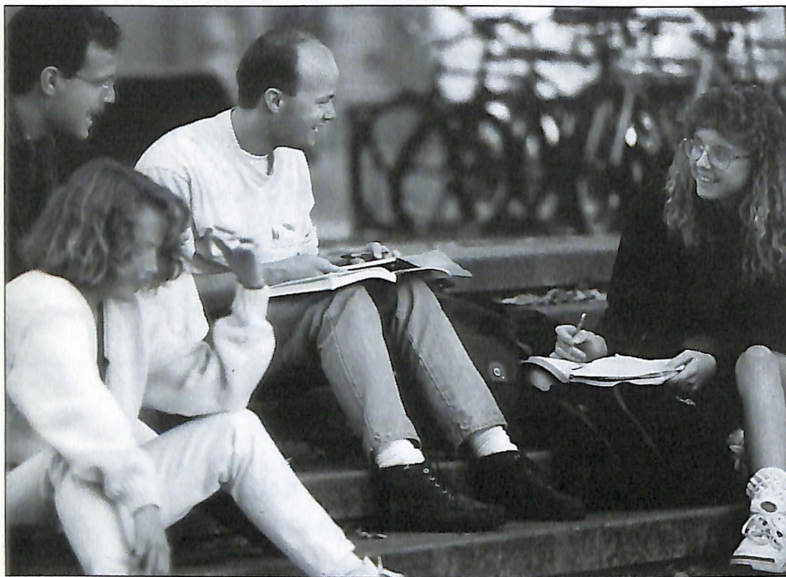
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Volunteers from the Friends of UC Davis Presents have made more than 100 visits to K-12 schools, compared with 47 last year and 17 in 1995-96, to promote the program and scout out campuses likely to participate. Last year, docents from the support group began going



into the schools before matinees to give presentations on the artists students were about to see. The number of free pre-per-

formance lectures for adult audiences, also sponsored by Friends of UC Davis Presents, has increased from 11 in 1996-97 to 18 this past season. A public service tradition, UC Davis Presents director, Steve Weiss, said outreach has long been a part of the campus Arts and Entertainment program. However, he said he and his staff wanted to give it new emphasis to enhance the university's role in community-arts education. "Universities play a great and unique role in trying to build an arts audience for tomorrow," Weiss said. UC Davis' role in introducing the arts to school children in Yolo, Sacramento, Solano, El Dorado, Placer counties, and beyond, also adds weight to plans to build a \$52.4 million performing arts center on campus, he said.

Support for the program is widespread. Corporate and private donations, as well as contributions from schools, parent-teacher groups and community organizations, defray the outreach program's \$50,000 annual cost. John Abigana, an instrumental music teacher at Woodland High School, said bringing world-class artists onto his campus has raised the level of expectations for his students. He said a visit by The King's Singers two years ago "just blew our choir away." Abigana said the school choir members were so inspired that their own performance improved dramatically. Abigana also stated that the outreach program helps young music students realize that a career in the arts is achievable. At the same time, students learn that many world-caliber performing

artists are approachable. Last fall, Latin jazz musician, Sandoval, sent a piece for the Woodland High jazz band members to practice, then came to the campus to perform with the students. For some youngsters, such experiences are therapy. During a tour four years ago, modern dance choreographer, David Parsons, produced a dance video with boys living in a Davis group home. The boys, ages 9 to 13, tumbled and rolled over each other at Parson's direction. "They really, really, really enjoyed it," said Leon Jones, school supervisor at Families First. "At first, I think some were a little apprehensive about it. Once they began to get into it, they were quite excited about it. Jones said staff members were pleased to see how much trust the boys developed in each other during the experience. "Our kids were able to work together on something creative and artistic in close proximity with each other," he said. "With our kids, they have a lot of issues with boundaries and being touched. The dancing and being that close together, it was quite impressive." Jones said the dancer's visit created some lasting effects. "I don't know any kids who actually pursued dancing after that, but we had some kids that were more involved in dance. They were able to express themselves a little better, where before they were a little bit shy. They felt a little more free in expressing themselves."

Supporters of Outreach believe they are filling a void by allowing the students the exposure to arts education. Rosalie Vanderhoef, wife of Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef and president-elect of Friends of UC Davis Presents, said arts education in the public schools has declined dramatically since her days as an elementary school teacher. "I believe kids today are missing out," Vanderhoef said. Teresa Kaneko, another active volunteer, said she has seen high school students who were at risk for dropping out of school become enthusiastic about a flamenco dance performance. Other junior-high and high-school students who had never been inside a theater before were entranced by a modern version of Shakespeare's, *Taming of the Shrew*. Kaneko said bringing students on campus for performances serves as another form of outreach for the university. "They see UC Davis not as another planet but as a real live place to go to," she said. "It might sink in some day that it might be a good place to apply. It's not a far away place anymore."

For more information about the UC Davis Presents Community Outreach Program, call (530) 757-3199.

UC DAVIS - Fueling the I-80 Life Science Corridor

By Kathleen Holder

Fungal diseases in tomatoes seem a far cry from human cancer, but a scientific study at the University of California, Davis, on how tomato plant genes instruct infected cells to die, could offer potential for developing both disease-resistant crops and new cancer treatments. Elsewhere on campus, a chemical engineer seeks ways to maximize places where you have the juxtaposition of all this expertise and where you can get the cross-fertilization of all these ideas," said Martina McGloughlin, director of the campus biotechnology program. Increasingly, that cross-fertilization is spilling over campus boundaries producing exciting new partnerships with California's fast expanding biotechnology industry. "With all the resources that are available here, we could provide some very unique opportunities for these companies that they are not going to be able to duplicate anywhere else in the world. Or if they do, it's going to cost them a lot of money," said Bennie Osburn, dean of the nation's No. 1 veterinary school.

Some regional business leaders believe UC Davis' presence could help transform the I-80 corridor from Solano to Placer county into the "Silicon Valley" of biotechnology. "I do think this area has the potential to be a national center and international center for biological sciences," said Al Gianini, executive director of the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization. Mary McCarthy, president of Solano Economic Development Corporation (SEDCORP), said UC Davis is a magnet for start-up agricultural biotechnology companies as well as for established Bay Area biomedical companies looking to build new production facilities. Over the past decade, a number of biotechnology firms have sprouted along the Interstate 80 "Life Sciences Corridor." "I think UC Davis plays a key role in making the life sciences corridor a reality," McCarthy said. "We already have evidence of that." A recent survey counted more than 30 biotechnology firms in Yolo, Sacramento and Placer counties that are developing animal vaccines, biological pesticides, industrial enzymes, food crops and other new products.

Solano County, to the east of UC Davis, has attracted a number of companies, including the Bay Area giants, ALZA Corporation, Chiron Corporation and Genentech Inc. Some of the firms have been start-ups that have developed directly from UC Davis research. Other companies have moved some or all of their operations here, in part, to make it easier to work with university scientists. Frank Jackson, general manager of Genentech's new Vacaville plant, said the proximity to UC Davis researchers influenced the



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company's decision to build there. "We had collaborations and relationships with them in the past. The prospects of doing more of that was something that was on our minds." Industry executives also cite lower property costs, an easier way of life, nearness to both the San Francisco Bay Area and the agriculturally rich Central Valley, and the Pacific Rim location as reasons for moving or starting up new firms here. But Robert Fountain of the Real Estate and Land Use Institute at California State University, Sacramento, said UC Davis is the primary reason for the regional growth in the biotechnology industry. "Most of these are little companies," said Fountain, who recently surveyed the industry for SACTO, the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization "They are living and dying on the ability to get creative employees, and they're getting them from UC Davis."

According to the UC Biotechnology Program, one in three U.S. biotechnology companies is located within 35 miles of a UC campus. One in five California biotech companies was founded by a UC scientist. The northernmost and physically the largest of the nine UC campuses, UC Davis is a major engine of biological research. More than 600 faculty members are conducting biotechnology-related research, according to the campus biotechnology program. According to the National Science Foundation's most recent statistics, the university ranked 22nd in the United States for overall research funding. In 1996-97, UC Davis received \$183.6 million in research grants and contracts from outside sources. That same year, UC Davis had 93 patents earning \$5.9 million, the second highest patent income among UC campuses. In addition, UC Davis houses a number of cross-disciplinary research

centers and programs. They include the California Regional Primate Research Center, a recently opened Center for Comparative Medicine, the Mouse Biology Program, a bio-engineering center for investigating new ways to protect plants against disease, a cancer center, a Center for Neuroscience, a structural biology program and a center to study diseases carried by insects. Plans also call for the creation of transgenic large animal research, seed biotechnology centers and bioinformatics, the use of computers to better understand aspects of biology.

The campus has awarded more biological science doctoral degrees than any other university in the country since 1987, when the National Research Council began collecting such data. For instance, in 1996, according to the council's most recent figures, 147 people earned doctorates in the biological sciences from UC Davis. UC Davis is also producing growing numbers of students with bachelor's degrees in biology-related majors. In June, the campus graduated a record 805 biology students. Genentech, headquartered in South San Francisco, currently has 247 employees who have either undergraduate or graduate degrees from UC Davis. "We've found UC Davis people to be excellent people," Jackson said. The university is the "number 1 reason" that AgraQuest located in Davis, said Pamela Marrone, president of the 3-year-old company that used UC Davis entomology research to produce a biological control for mosquitoes. "We've got all the factors here," Marrone said. "We've got the campus, the labor pool, the facilities on campus, the brain power and the resources." The resource exchange goes both ways. In the Division of Biological Sciences, two young scientists from Berlex Biosciences in Richmond and one from Alameda-based Glycomed Inc., are pursuing their doctoral degrees through a 3-year-old program that allows them to attend classes on campus while conducting their research at work.

Microbiology professor JaRue Manning, who coordinates the biological sciences corporate doctoral program, said some faculty members were concerned at first about how to maintain rigorous university standards for corporate students' research. As they later discovered, the companies proved as demanding as the faculty in setting program requirements. Any remaining faculty resistance to the doctoral program was quickly overcome by the high quality of the students themselves. "All the faculty have said these students have contributed much to their classroom instruction by asking questions and participating in discussion in ways that extend the learning process," he said. Other UC Davis doctoral students were given the option this past academic year of choosing a "designated emphasis in biotechnology." The program requires them to conduct internships at private firms for at least three months. "One student didn't come back. She liked it so much she stayed there," said Martina McGloughlin in the campus' biotechnology program. "It's a very good entrée for students into the industry." A new lecture series, started in 1997-98, also brought top industry scientists to campus to give weekly talks, offering UC Davis students a chance to learn about cutting-edge research in the

private sector. Manning said he would like the university to go a step further, inviting corporate researchers to be guest instructors for graduate seminars. "Not all private research is a protected trade secret," he said. "There's a lot of important nonproprietary basic research going on at these corporate sites. I think it would be a real plus for the university to become more proactive in its relationships with regional biotechnology companies."

UC Davis officials are taking steps to make it easier for both companies and government agencies to work with campus researchers and to shorten the time it takes for research results to reach the public. The UC Davis Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research has proposed establishing a campus Office of Technology Transfer to help move knowledge and technology to the marketplace faster. Currently, UC Davis patents go through a UC-wide Office of Technology Transfer in Oakland. The campus is also studying the feasibility of starting a biotech incubator that would provide start-up companies with lab space and access to other university resources. Other collaborations involve established companies. Since 1996-97, UC Davis has secured nine "BioSTAR" grants for collaborative research with biotechnology industry. The matching grants, part of a \$5 million UC-wide program, range from \$20,000 to more than \$200,000. University administrators also have been working closely with local chambers of commerce and other business organizations, including SEDCORP and SACTO, to recruit established biotechnology firms to the area.

UC Davis has been discussing a long-term research collaboration with St. Louis-based, Monsanto Co., that could involve moving its West Coast life sciences operation, including Calgene Inc. in Davis, to a university "enterprise reserve area." This is an area of land designated by the campus long range development plan to allow for public-private partnership, which may include research or other university activities. Monsanto's recent acquisition by American Home Products has delayed a decision. But university officials believe the merger increases potential research partnerships for UC Davis. Other recruiting efforts are international. Biological sciences dean, Mark McNamee and Assistant Director, Martina McGloughlin, traveled to Germany in March and met with representatives of 12 biotechnology companies. "A lot of companies in Europe, Germany in particular, are interested in having a presence in the United States," McGloughlin said. "There were three or four companies that were very interested in Davis as a potential site for North America and a jumping off point for the Pacific Rim." McGloughlin and other campus officials also plan to attend a European biotechnology conference in London in October.

According to administrators, one challenge for UC Davis is in presenting the sum of its many parts, rather than bits and pieces. "We're trying to present ourselves to the outside community as one entity," said Mona Ellerbrock, who was named last fall to a

new post of Special Assistant for Research Partnerships. Ellerbrock previously worked with a UC Davis program that retrained more than 400 Mare Island Naval Shipyard workers, including 70 engineers, for environmental cleanup as the Vallejo base was being closed. This program, started by University Extension and the College of Engineering, is promoting the field testing of innovative technology and assessment tools developed by UC Davis faculty to tackle contamination at Mare Island.

Ellerbrock's new job duties, in addition to coordinating the university's participation in defense conversions, include helping government and industry groups establish research partnerships with the university. Increasingly, those research partners are interested in working with faculty members spread across the campus in myriad disciplines. "More and more, they're interested in the whole tapestry," Ellerbrock said. "They're not interested in the particular threads. They're interested in how all the threads weave together."

However, CSU economist Robert Fountain said that in order for the industry to reach its full potential in the region, it needs more help than the university can provide alone. Fountain's survey found the local biotechnology industry is largely invisible, not only to the public, but even among its own ranks. There is no standard industrial classification for biotechnology, making it difficult to determine the

continued on page 24

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U.S. Economic Deflations? Unlikely

by Kimberlee Sutton

Low inflation, low interest rates, low unemployment. With these components of our current economy, it is hard to believe there is something to be worried about. But recently the media have dug up a word from deep within the country's financial history to describe what they perceive as a problem facing our economy - deflation.

Fortunately, the media are misusing the word in describing our recent experience of lower-than-expected inflation in consumer prices and weakness in producer prices (raw materials and manufactured goods).

*Definition. Deflation is decline in price levels over an extended period of time, often accompa-

nied by price declines in assets such as stocks and real estate, as well as a decline in economic activity. In the extreme, deflation, like inflation, is a monetary phenomenon. In this case, it's associated with a major contraction in the growth of money and credit.

* U.S. financial history. The Great Depression was the classic case of U.S. declines in the economy, consumer prices and asset prices. One reason was that the U. S. Government and Federal Reserve stood by while many of the nation's banks failed.

Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, recently pointed out that a severe price decline in asset prices can have a bad effect on the economy, but that

gradual price declines over time need not be a serious threat. During the last three decades of the 19th century, gradual price declines occurred but without the serious negative impact on the economy and stock market that occurred in the 1930's.

The post-World War II era has seen a number of instances of such price softness in goods, but those were not cases of deflation. The softness in prices over the last year fits this history. There were even two periods of more than a year in which consumer prices declined. None of these occurrences produced major adverse effects on the economy or the financial markets.

continued on page 23

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Coated glass controls heat and light, making our lives more comfortable. In the last 20 years there has been significant growth in the use of coated glass to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. During this period, BOC Coating Technology has manufactured equipment which has produced most of the world's coated glass for this purpose. The result of advances in thin film coating technology, today's coated glass applications include architectural glass, automotive windows, mirrors for photocopiers, and enhanced-visibility computer screens. Thin film coating technology is being used in ways undreamed of just a few years ago. And the future is bright, with new products to benefit numerous industries. BOC Coating Technology (BOCCT) operates its US headquarters in Fairfield.

This article is the result of a recent interview with BOCCT General Manager Phil Johnson. A physicist with 20 years experience in the surface modification business, Johnson has spent the last six with BOCCT and this year completed a company consolidation to Fairfield. Prior to assuming CEO duties, Johnson spent most of his career in the sales and marketing of thin film solar control technologies and products.

ABOUT THE CORPORATION

BOCCT is a division of the BOC Group, Inc., which was founded in London in 1886 as the British Oxygen Company. The company's

first product was oxygen for use as a medical gas and in theater lighting. Today the BOC Group employs around 40,000 people and contributes to the economies of 60 countries.

Fairfield's BOCCT is part of the vacuum technology business, an operating unit of BOC, Inc. It supplies glass coating equipment and coating process technology, based on vacuum coating processes.



Coating systems can be designed to coat flat, bent or curved glass panels

ABOUT BOC COATING TECHNOLOGY

BOCCT manufactures coating equipment based on in-vacuum depositing, or deposition. Thin film deposition systems were pioneered by Temescal, now a part of BOCCT. There are three legs to the U.S. operation of BOCCT - the industrial applications of glass and optical coating, the Temescal coated wafer substrates for the semiconductor industry, and field emission displays (FED), a new technology offering an alternative to liquid crystal displays.

The Glass Coating business began with the Berkeley-based Airco Solar Products in the 1970's. BOCCT manufactures custom glass coating systems, an industry that has virtually exploded over the past three decades. The customized coaters are designed for maximum flexibility in the choice of materials that may be used in the customer's coating process. Very large systems can extend to more than 100 meters in length. The coaters are designed and assembled for the customer in the Fairfield plant, then taken apart, shipped, and re-assembled at the customer's site. The machines are used in a coating process that produces a permanent physical change to the surface of the glass. About 15% of the custom units produced, at \$5,000,000 to \$14,000,000 per unit, are for U.S. customers, while the remaining are shipped to glass coating manufacturers in other countries.

BOCCT process control technology is constantly evolving to remain on the leading edge in the glass coating industry. A variety of thin film coatings serve customer needs in controlling heat and light. The commercial market for these applications was pre-eminent in the 1980's, with the proliferation of glass clad buildings and high rises in urban areas. The mirror-like exterior coatings reduce the thermal load of these buildings and reduce the energy loss in residential applications.

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The residential market for coated glass has been emerging throughout the 1990's. A wider range of products produced by fabricators has been assisted by legislation mandating energy efficiency. Environmental benefits include the release of less carbon dioxide, which is generated by heating and air conditioning units, into the air.

In addition, the automotive market for coated glass, windshields and windows, is strong. In addition to energy efficiency, glass coatings also filter harmful ultraviolet rays which degrade the car's interior.

TEMESCAL APPLICATIONS

In-vacuum deposition provides post-silicon applications for the semiconductor industry, for the production of electronics, including computers, cellular phones, hi-fi systems and television sets.

FIELD EMISSION DISPLAYS

Another application of vacuum technology and coated glass is in high-tech field emission displays (FED), an alternative to liquid crystal. FED's are brighter, use less power, and provide better clarity.

Begun as a start-up technology in the Bay Area, FED's are courting interest from major industry giants like Motorola. FED's are a U.S. technology development, whereas liquid crystal displays are produced by the Japanese. Successful applications of FED's will put U.S. manufacturers back into the forefront of display technologies. BOCCT, which has developed a unique approach to FED manufacturing capability, sees a bright future for FED's.

WHY FAIRFIELD

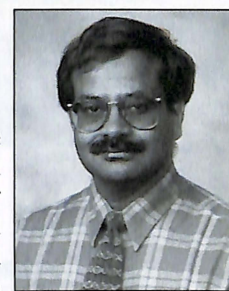
BOCCT moved to the Busch Business Park in 1987, consolidating facilities from Berkeley and Concord, while still maintaining some operations in Concord. The company completed the consolidation earlier this year with the absorption of the remaining functions from Concord. With both R&D and production capabilities, BOCCT Fairfield employs about 200 in their 80,000 sq ft building, of which 65,000 sq ft is used for manufacturing.

BOCCT chose to locate in Fairfield for a number of sound business reasons. Suitable buildings and facilities were available and affordable, and housing was affordable for employees. The labor rates met the company's objectives, and Solano provides a skilled workforce to meet company needs. Travis Air Force Base was a definite plus as the skills of Travis retirees suited BOCCT skills, needs for mechanical/electrical technicians. BOCCT continues to recruit and hire Travis retirees.

The City of Fairfield was supportive to BOCCT's needs, and city personnel aggressively assisted the site decision. For its part, BOCCT is a good corporate citizen and a desirable large employer, offering quality jobs, a clean industrial environment, and energy efficiency products. BOCCT personnel worked closely with then-mayor Gary Falati, former city manager Charlie Long and redevelopment agency director Sean Quinn. ■

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Inam Khan has been involved with various aspects of the commercial real estate business his entire professional life, most recently as an associate with Premier Commercial, Inc. His understanding of the unique and specialized needs of businesses comes from personal experience. Inam owned and operated restaurants in Vallejo and Benicia after working as a General Manager for a division of Marriott Corporation for fifteen years. His experience and working knowledge of business needs contribute to this specialization in Retail Leasing and Sales.

Inam's marketing effort is designed around a strategy which meets the individual needs of his clientele. His goal is to provide maximum market exposure with selected signage, advertising, and promotions. He is constantly meeting and networking with the business community to increase the visibility of his client's properties.

Communication and market knowledge is essential to Inam. He is dedicated to assisting prospective tenants and buyers/sellers through the lease and purchase process, from intent to lease or purchase to lease commencement and close of escrow.

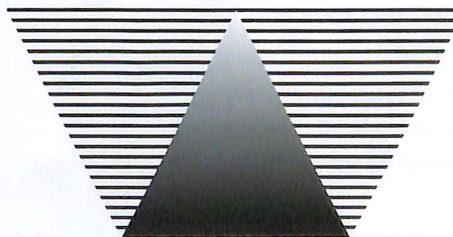


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"Eat your vegetables" is a maternal directive that takes on new meaning in the Life Science Corridor. Biotechnology, in the simplest and broadest sense, is the utilization of living organisms or their components to provide useful products or processes. This definition encompasses essentially all of agriculture, since agriculture is based on the production of plants and animals to provide food, fiber and other products for human use. Thus, humans

have been employing biotechnology for at least 10,000 years since the origin of agriculture.

Recently, however, the term 'biotechnology' has become synonymous with 'genetic engineering.' In the current modern usage, biotechnology is identified with techniques that collectively allow the precise identification, isolation, alteration, and re-introduction of heritable traits to living organisms for specific purposes. The cloning and movement of genes among life forms as diverse as bacteria, tomatoes or sheep is now possible.

The biotechnology focus at UC Davis is one of the reasons that Salad Cosmo USA, a biotech company, chose to locate in Dixon. One of Solano's newest corporate citizens, Salad Cosmo USA is a 53-year old family-owned Japanese company. The company produces organically grown sprouts for human consumption, a highly nutritious, very popular food product. Salad Cosmo currently grows and markets radish, mung bean, alfalfa and soybean sprouts.

This article is the result of a recent conversation with Mr. Masa Nakada, president of Salad Cosmo USA.

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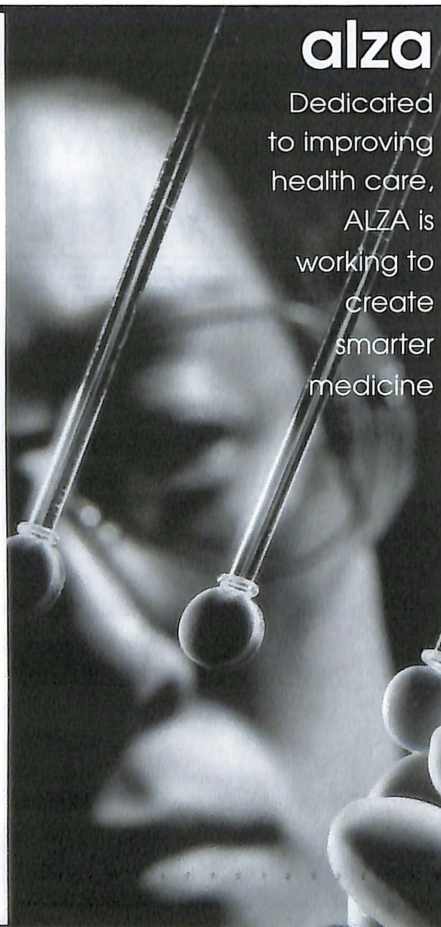
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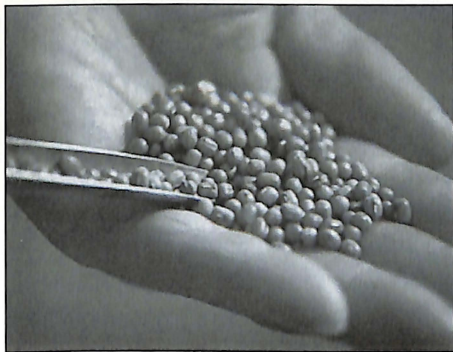


WHY A U.S. OPERATION?

Mr. Nakada chose to expand the company's capabilities in the U.S. for a variety of reasons. First, the climate here is ideal for organic growing techniques, the only techniques used by the company. Also, agricultural land is available and much more competitively priced than in Japan, an important element for a company that is constantly testing and experimenting for new seed varieties. Scientists in Salad Cosmo laboratories experiment to improve the quality of the seed and the taste of the product. And the proximity of the researchers, facilities and equipment at UC Davis could be very helpful in assisting Salad Cosmo scientists in measuring and analyzing seed crop results.

FACILITIES

The Salad Cosmo facilities are visible from the I-80 at the Dixon Avenue exit. The new building sits in the middle of agricultural land in the greenbelt area between Vacaville and Dixon. The 1,000 acre greenbelt, purchased jointly by the two cities in 1996, was earmarked



for agriculture-related development only in order to preserve rich agricultural land and ensure a buffer between the two cities, and made available for re-sale. Salad Cosmo purchased 230 acres in the buffer, and contracts with a local farmer for an additional 220 acres devoted to radish seed production. The company exports exclusively to Japan, providing quality seed for the company's sprout production facilities. In addition to harvesting seed for export, the Dixon facility will also produce sprouts for consumption in Northern California.

The facility itself is 50,000 sq ft, on 30 acres. It contains labs to measure and weigh seed quality, dark rooms for seed germination into sprouts and equipment rooms to harvest seed and sprouts and package for export or for local marketing and consumption. The facility and land purchase represent an eight million dollar investment by the company. Salad Cosmo USA is currently producing mung bean sprouts, and plans include soybean, radish and alfalfa sprouts. The company is planting soybeans on their 200 acre farm, part of the process of developing high quality soybean seeds. Seed development is a risky venture, evidenced by the fact that last year's soybean crop was lost due to an overabundance of rain.

CLIMATE

Salad Cosmo practices organic farming because "organic farming is healthy for humans", says Mr. Nakada. Organic growing, which produces higher quality seeds for sprouts production, does not use chemical pesticides. Low humidity is a requirement for successful organic growing, because humidity gives rise to disease and pests. Low humidity makes the California climate friendly to organic growing, because it lowers the risk of damage to seed production. The weather here, with both high and low temperatures during a 24-hour period, in combination with

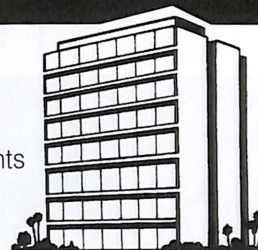
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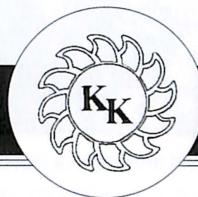
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WHY SOLANO?

Mr. Nakada started looking for farming opportunities in the U.S. six or seven years ago. About five

years ago, he contracted for radish production with local farmers. His experimentation to produce high quality radish seed resulted in red ink for the first three years. Finally,

having developed successful techniques for growing seed plants, proprietary information, he purchased his own agricultural land, convinced of the comparative efficiency of agricultural experimentation here. Land is cost prohibitive in Japan, and he was implementing his "dream" of harvesting seed in the United States.

The costs of farming in California are higher than other states. California growing, for example, requires field irrigation, which is not true in some other states with rich soils. But the high cost of doing business here is balanced by the low humidity and favorable temperature fluctuations during a 24-hour period, requirements for successful organic growing. And an advantage of the Solano location is its easy access to the Pacific Rim harbors of Oakland and San Francisco for the shipment of seeds to Japan.

Mr. Nakada was making five to ten business trips a year to California, seeking the right opportunity to buy land. He talked to a lot of farmers, and he looked in the Sacramento delta area, along the I-505 and in Rio Vista. When he saw the "For Sale" sign in the Dixon-Vacaville greenbelt area, he made his decision and purchased 230 acres. He enjoys the fact that the land is in a protected greenbelt, for agriculture, as he says, doesn't want to be close to houses.

ABOUT SALAD COSMO

The Solano facility will help deliver needed quality seed for the Japanese market. In Japan, Salad Cosmo grows and markets four kinds of sprouts,

and its labs are researching new varieties. The four current products are radish, mung bean, alfalfa and soybean sprouts. Sprouts are an extremely popular food product in Japan.

Salad Cosmo USA exports only seed to Japan, because there is not enough shelf life in sprouts to export, and the company already has sufficient capacity in its four Japanese factories to grow the sprouts. The company can process 6,000,000 pounds of mung bean seeds into sprouts each year, a voracious appetite not yet met by current seed production. An acre yields 3,000 metric tons of mung bean seeds per year.

In Japan, competition is keen in the sprout business, which boasts more than 800 sprout-producing companies. The Japanese population consumes five to six times the sprouts consumed in the U.S. The Dixon facility will produce sprouts for Northern California consumers, which will take significant efforts in market development. At peak, the facility will produce 60,000 lbs of sprouts per day - mung bean now with soybean, radish and alfalfa sprouts planned, once Mr. Nakada is satisfied with the quality of the product.

SPROUTS

Sprouts are a source of high nutrition, and may provide natural immunity to some diseases. Salad Cosmo creates an underground environment to grow sprouts to preserve the nutrients and taste of sprouts. As seeds sprout from below ground into the sunlight, the sun's ultraviolet rays cause the breakdown of the nutritive value of plants. Plants use their nutrition to combat ultraviolet rays, and the natural defense of the plant to ultraviolet rays also makes the taste of the plant bitter. Therefore Salad Cosmo grows sprouts in a dark environment. The result is that the nutrition content is high and the taste is "sweet" from the below ground environment.

The goal of testing and experimentation is to improve the nutritive value and taste of sprouts. The nutrition value of sprouts is highest seven to ten days after the seed begins to sprout. In Japan, Salad Cosmo scientists analyze all elements used in sprout production for nutrition and calories. In Solano, Mr. Nakada is desirous of developing a relationship with the researchers at UC Davis to assist in these measurements and analysis.

Any seed can produce sprouts, and taste is important to the successful marketing of sprouts. Sesame sprouts, for example, are very high in nutritive value, but the taste is bitter, so at present they are not marketable. Today, sesame is ground into powder and sold as an nutrition additive.

The next time you order a deli-sandwich, think of Solano, and Dixon, and Salad Cosmo when asked to decide "Sprouts?" ■



“INDUSTRY PREVIEW” OF GENENTECH A SUCCESS

One million nine hundred thousand man hours to construct, with no lost time accidents. Twenty seven miles (140,000 linear feet) of process and utility piping, 3,400 tons of steel, enough for 1,700 automobiles, and enough concrete to pave 20 football fields (15,000 cubic yards). These stats of the new Genentech Vacaville Mammalian Cell Culture Center preceded a tour for representatives of thirty-five Bay Area biotechnology companies attending the recent “Industry Preview” in Vacaville.

Genentech Vacaville’s General Manager Frank Jackson, the host of the event, told the audience they were the first outside group to see the facility, now in final construction stages.

The brainchild of the SEDCORP Life Sciences Committee, of which Jackson is a member, the “Industry Preview” was an opportunity to promote Solano as an ideal location for other biotech industry facilities.

Jackson talked about the site selection process leading to Genentech’s choice of Vacaville. Incentives alone were not the deciding factor. “Other communities offered more in the way of financial incentives, but we felt more comfortable with the experienced Vacaville management team.” The choice was a good one, according to George Mackey, Genentech’s Start-Up Manager. “We’ve had our problems, as all facilities of this size and scope do”, said Mackey, “but the City approached the obstacles as ‘our’ problem, not just Genentech’s problem.”

The audience was welcomed by Gary Lyman, chair of the SEDCORP Life Sciences Committee, and by Vacaville City Manager John Thompson. The Genentech Vacaville Preview was one of the most successful of SEDCORP’s series of marketing Solano events. ■

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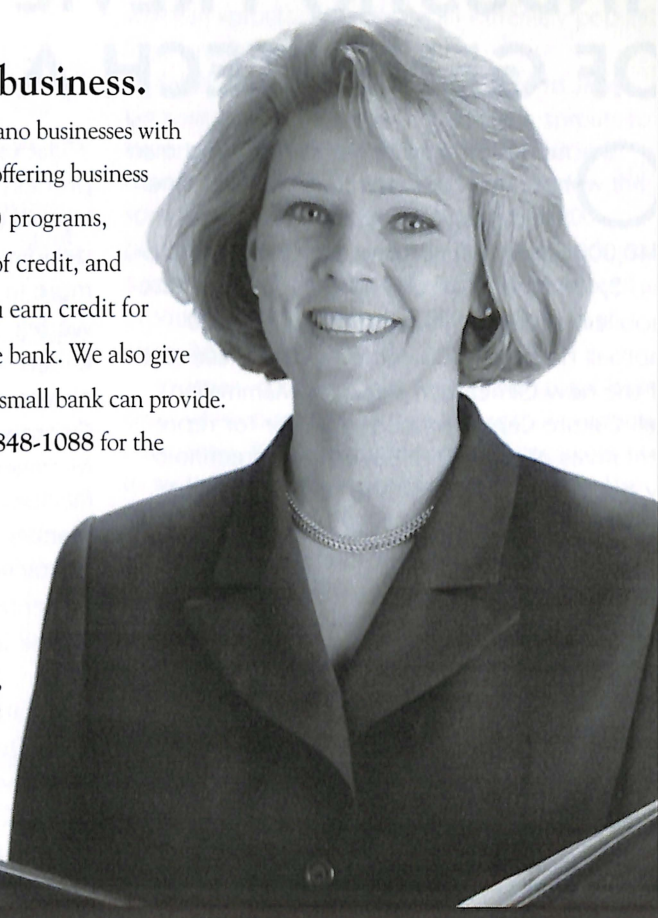
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Fifteen years with Westamerica; a member of the Solano County Chambers of Commerce, Sedcorp, and the Board of Directors of Youth and Family Services, Inc.



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Colliers International: Brooks Pedder and Philip Garrett completed the following deals:

Garaventa Properties leased 17,200 sf to California State Automobile Association (AAA) at 324 Campus Lane, Suites M-T in the Fairfield Corporate Commons for administrative and record storage.

Providian Financial is expanding into the final 2 phases, second and third building within Phase 3, Fairfield Corporate Commons. They expect to fully occupy the additional 25,000 sf by the end of September. Total occupancy 50,000 sf.

Private Industry Council (PIC) expanded by 4,200 sf at 420A Executive Court North in the Fairfield Corporate Commons.

Fairfield Corporate Commons is now 98% leased with only 2,800 sf remaining space.

The Panattoni Spec Project, 239,993 sf located at 5200 Watt Court in Fairfield has been 100% pre leased by: Biagi Brothers Warehousing leased 195,000 sf, primarily for storage for Beringer Wines and Tom Duffy Company, building materials and wholesalers leased 43,500 sf in the complex. Chris Petrini with Grubb & Ellis participated in the Tom Duffy deal.

The remaining lots within the Solano Business Park were purchased by Summit Commercial. On the 57 acres acquired, Summit plans to build three speculative buildings totaling 300,000 sf for office, warehouse, light industrial uses. Construction should be completed 2nd quarter 1999.

Sigmatex High Technology purchased 2 acres on Lot 2 in the Drake Industrial Park, Benicia from Tulloch Construction. Drake Industrial Park is now 100% sold/build-out



Tulloch Construction purchased 5.53 acres from Gallagher & Burke, South Watney Way within the Solano Business Park, Fairfield. Tulloch is seeking build-to-suit clients.

ABCO Laboratories purchased 108,000 sf on 13.3 acres from Hayward Industries/ Arneson Pool Products at 2450 S. Watney Way in the Solano Business Park. ABCO is a manufacturer of food additives and project 120-150 jobs. Graden Travis & Duane Fitch, CB Richard Ellis represented the seller.

Brown Trout Publications expanded into an additional 32,400 sf for printing operations at 4977 Allison Parkway in Vacaville and also extended their lease from 5 years to 10. Total square feet 102,000. Lessor: Panattoni Development.

Air Design, leased 40,000 sf at 1416 Midway Road in Vacaville.

Recycling Resources leased 10,000 sf on 1.5 acres at 4989 Peabody Road in Vacaville for a recycling center. Lessor: Billy Yarbrough, Solano Development Inc.

CB Richard Ellis

J. Case purchased 1.93 acre land parcel from Gonsalves & Santucci at W. Channel Road in Benicia. Brokers: Graden Travis and Greg Smyth

Supreme Truck Body leased 8,540 sf on Mare Island, Building 853. Brokers: Matt Bracco and Graden Travis.

Falcon Truck School leased 2,700 sf on Mare Island, Building 487. Brokers: Matt Bracco, Jeff Lee and Graden Travis.

Philips Services leased 2 acres at 210 W. Channel Road in Benicia. Broker: Graden Travis.

Clark Miller Distributing leased 6,500 sf at 5199 Fulton Drive in Cordelia. Matt Bracco represented Clark Miller.



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Custom Packaging Technologies, Inc. leased 15,808 sf at 6860 Goodyear Road in Benicia. Greg Smyth & Deron White represented lessee.

Vitamin Adventure leased 2,250 sf at 630 Eubanks Court in Vacaville. Brokers: Greg Smyth and Graden Travis.

E.A.I. International leased 3,750 sf at 5199 Fulton Drive in Cordelia. Broker: Greg Smyth represented lessee.

North Bay Window Co. leased 1,400 sf at 640 Eubanks Court in Vacaville. Brokers: Greg Smyth and Graden Travis

Premier Commercial

Mr. Moto Products leased 1,291.5 sf of industrial space in Vacaville. Brokers: Don Theile and Ron Waslohn.

Fiesta Taqueria leased 1,440 sf at 672 Parker Road in Fairfield. Brokers: Ron Waslohn and Inam Khan.

Trammell Roofing leased 2,190 sf of industrial space at 108 Railroad Avenue, Suite G in Suisun. Broker: Kevin English.

Coldwell Banker

International Teamworks leased 10,554 sf at 70 Peabody Road in Vacaville. Broker: Don Matthews.

Valley Massage leased 1,250 sf at 2288 Rockville Rd., Suisun. Broker: Bill Bassett

In-N-Out Burger leased 1,250 sf at 807-E Davis St. in Vacaville. Brokers: Bill Bassett and Hal Alpert

Karla Jackson-Lovine lease 3,000 sf at 310 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville. Broker: Hal Alpert and Rav Shamieh

Paul Wireman purchased 10,000 sf at 1325 Callen St in Vacaville. Brokers: Monica Espinosa and Hal Alpert.



The Wiseman Company

Response Insurance leased 20,000 sf at 333 Sunset Ave. in Suisun. Broker: Kirk Hull.

Grubb & Ellis

Travis Engineering leased 17,500 sf at 515 Stone Road in Benicia. Bret DeMartini represented the tenant, Chris Petrini represented the landlord.

Colliers Wine Logistics leased 12,500 sf at 866 Teal in Benicia. Broker: Chris Petrini

High Tech Forklift leased 11,000 sf at 1973 Cordelia Road in Fairfield. Broker: Chris Petrini.

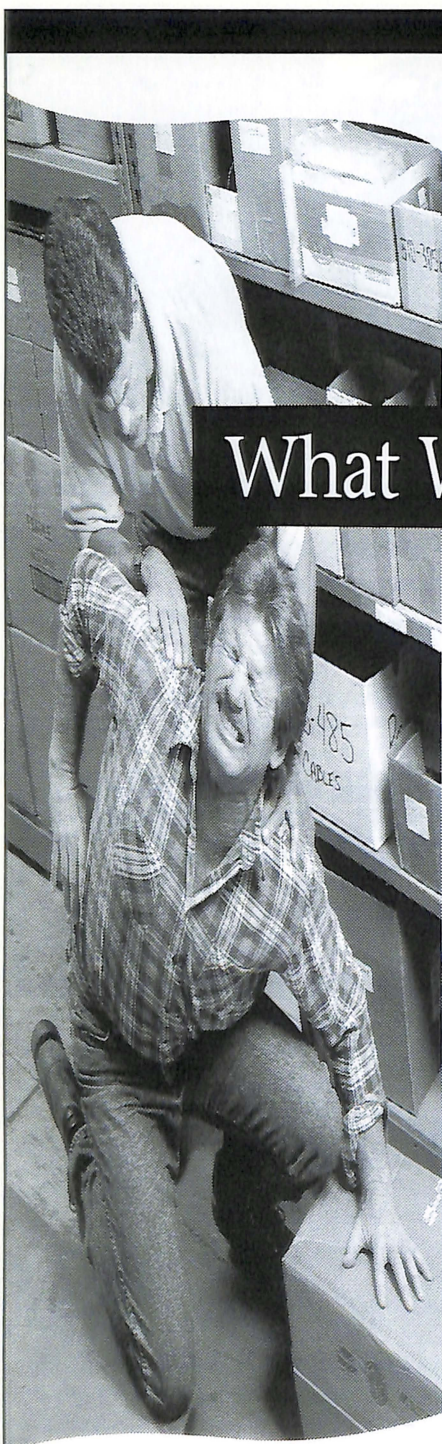
Now available: freestanding 20,500 sf building at 4833 Auto Plaza Court in Fairfield. For additional information contact Chris Petrini at Grubb & Ellis.

CSR Auto Inc. leased 56,250 sf at 400 Croker Drive in Vacaville. Brokers: Chris Petrini represented the landlord, Brooks Pedder with Colliers International represented the tenant.

Member News

Fred Hearn Construction has been awarded a \$1.2 million contract to provide "Hardening and Capacity Expansion" for the Solano County Jail in Fairfield. The nine-month project will add 177 new beds and increase protection for correctional personnel by adding security partitions to areas of the jail where inmates have direct access to employees. The project is funded by a \$1 million federal grant.

Corey Delta, contractor located in Benicia, was recognized for its outstanding safety record with a first place award from the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of California.



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The Solano County Economic Development Corporation is a collaboration of the seven cities and Solano County, in partnership with business and industry for economic growth and a higher quality of life for all citizens. SEDCORP offers industry assistance, a community interface and member relations. For more information about SEDCORP's mission, please call (707) 864-1855.

To inquire about the Solano Economic Development Corporation's programs, or for membership information, please call (707) 864-1855

SEDCORP BUSINESS CALENDAR

September

- 16 Board of Directors Meeting, 3 PM,
Private Industry Council
- 24 SEDCORP Member Luncheon, 12PM
Ulati Community Center, Vacaville
featuring CalStart, a California trans-
portation technologies consortium

October

- 13 Life Sciences Committee Meeting,
Location TBD
- 22 Breakfast on Campus, 7:30 AM,
Kaiser Permanente, Vacaville, Topic:
Biotech/ Veterinary Medicine Links,
UC Davis

November

- 12 Executive Forum, 8:30 AM, Vallejo
Times Herald
- 18 Board of Directors Meeting, 3 PM,
Benicia City Hall

Deflation?

continued from page 12

Because of the history of the 1930's, several economists believe the Federal Reserve would not allow a situation similar to that period to evolve. It has learned the lessons of the mistakes of that era. The fact that Greenspan recently discussed that period is testimony to the Fed's sensitivity on this subject. The Fed is just as opposed to deflation as it is to inflation. Its goal is price stability.

* Current economic situation. The decline in goods prices reflects the oversupply of many goods in the global markets, part of the problem creating the recent Asian crisis. Many economic experts feel the U.S. economy is growing at a very good clip. The softness in prices is a positive aspect of the current economic situation and can be viewed as favorable for the financial markets.

So while it appears severe deflation is not likely for the United States, a little dip in the price of goods usually means a good environment for financial markets. Dips in the stock market could actually create long-term buying opportunities. As far as your investments are concerned, remaining on track with your long-term investment strategy can serve you and your financial portfolio well over the long run.

The author is an investment broker for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Fairfield. ■

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UC Davis

continued from page 11

industry's size, growth and quarterly earnings. Even biotechnology company executives were unaware of the number of firms in the region. Fountain said that visibility problem translates to a lack of community support, and with it a shortage of subsidized loans and other government incentives for companies to build here. The city of Vacaville proved itself an exception by streamlining permits and providing tax breaks and other incentives to land such companies as Genentech. Both Fountain and SEDCORP President, Mary McCarthy, said Genentech's new \$250 million plant will give the industry much needed visibility in the region. "It's the first biotech company. It's the most successful. It's the marquee," McCarthy said. But Fountain suggested a regional approach is needed to help new firms get started and to help developing companies grow. "For a lot of these companies, the problem isn't the building," he said. "It's product development, business loans and entrepreneurial support." Fountain's survey found other hurdles. Company executives complained, in particular, about the quality of public schools and a perceived lack of an upscale lifestyle in the greater Sacramento area. UC Davis is already working on both fronts. Last year, it launched a partnership with local community colleges and CSU Sacramento to help improve selected inner-city Sacramento schools. The university is also planning to build a \$52.4 million performing arts center to provide a new venue for its extensive cultural programs.

Meanwhile, UC Davis scientists continue to report advances in their research that could lead eventually to commercial applications. UC Davis biologists recently brought a seed-building gene to life in a plant's leaves instead of its blossoms, a novel feat that could lead to valuable innovations in food crops. The new research, described in the June 26 issue of the journal, "Cell", was the work of researchers in the laboratory of UC Davis plant biologist, John Harada and collaborators at UC Berkeley and UCLA. It was led by Tamar Lotan, a postdoctoral researcher with Harada. "We don't know that this work will definitely lead to applied uses," Harada said. "But if it does, it will be another example where beneficial applications come out of basic research." Martina McGloughlin of the campus biotechnology program said no one imagined in the 1950s that research on how bacteria use "biochemical scissors" to cut up invading viruses would eventually lead to the development of genetic engineering. She said that development illustrates the importance of basic research conducted at the university. "You always have to keep in mind that obscure research is what's going to lead to the exciting discoveries of the next decade," she said. ■

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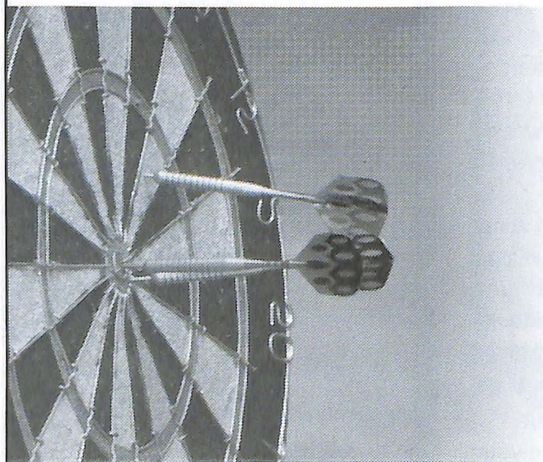
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